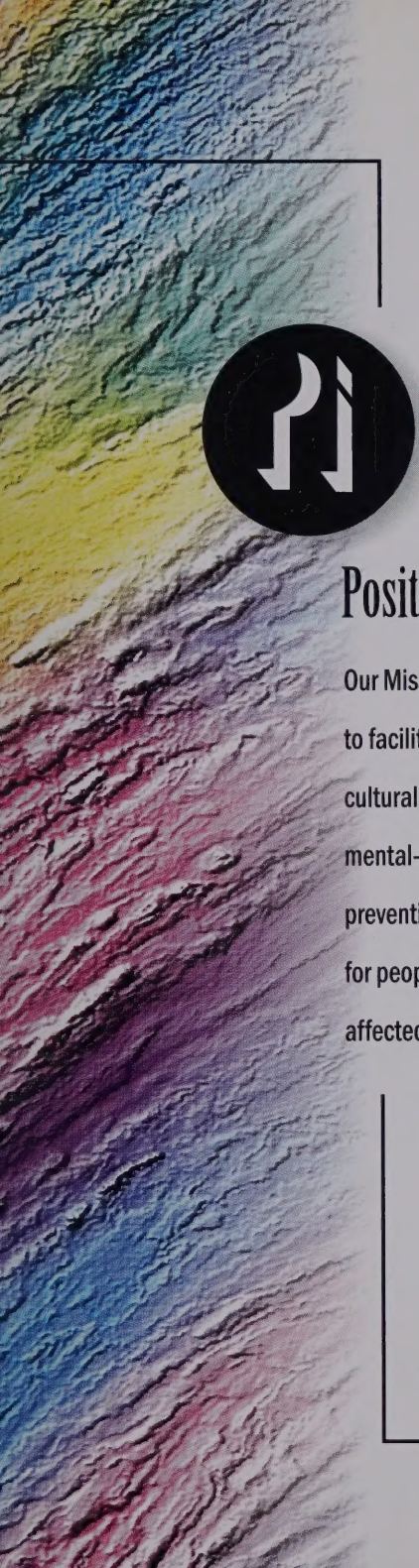

Positive Impact, Inc.

Our Mission:

to facilitate

culturally sensitive

mental-health and

prevention services

for people

affected by HIV

To receive services; to request additional information and assistance; to join the AIDS Walk team; to volunteer to provide mental health services; to volunteer to help with fund-raising projects; to volunteer to work in the office; and, to make a donation, please call Positive Impact at (404) 589-9040

When you need services, simply give us a call!

Client Services

- Individual mental-health counseling
- Couples and family counseling
- Support groups and therapy groups

Special Needs Programs

- STAR Kids, a counseling program for children affected by HIV.
- HIV Prevention, a five-week program for people in recovery.
- Homeless Outreach, a program providing mental health services for homeless people with HIV.
- Hispanic Outreach, a program providing training and mental health support for the Hispanic community.

Comprehensive Education Programs

- Positive Impact Journal
- The Cultural Diversity Institute
- Professional Training and Workshop Program
- Graduate Student Internship Program

POSITIVE IMPACT, INC.
159 Ralph McGill Blvd.
Suite 605
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
(404) 589-9040
Fax (404) 589-1615
E-mail pimentalhealth@aol.com

***Positive Connections* Newsletter Meeting July 22, 2005**

Present: Alvaro Ordonez, Craig Washington, Grace Hipona, Moneta Sinclair, Veronica Motley

On July 22nd, several staff met to plan the September issue of Positive Connections. Craig apologized that the designated April issue was not published. He explained that some of the articles were not completed until early June and by that time he was engaged in preparing for upcoming trainings and events.

We decided to incorporate the submissions written for the April issue (on diversity and cultural competence) into the September issue which will have the AIDS Walk as its lead article. The September issue of *Positive Connections* will include the following articles and sections:

Articles:

PI at the AIDS Walk (including a spotlight on a PI Walk volunteer fundraiser/organizer
Lessons in Cultural Competence
Being Trans and HIV
Volunteer Profile – Sarah Lopez
Opportunities to Support PI – Volunteering and Donations
Cultural Diversity workshop announcement

Regular Sections:

Donations mailer (perforated bottom section of back page)
PI Events Calendar (scheduled trainings, support groups, World AIDS Day)
Listings of Board, Staff, Interns and Work Study students
Volunteer Profile

Assignments:

PI at AIDS Walk	CRAIG
Volunteer Profile (written)	CRAIG
Support Opportunities	CRAIG and MONETA
Donation page:	GRACE
Formatting :	GRACE
Proofreading:	ALVARO

Deadlines:

August 15th – All articles and sections completed and submitted for editing and proofreading

September 2 – All completed articles submitted for formatting

September 15- Print date

A Year In Review - A Look Ahead

In an interview with PI's Executive Director, Paul Plate reflected on the accomplishments and challenges of 2005 and offered up to the universe his desires and expectations for continued success in the upcoming year.

Among the past year's great tidings was the unexpected doubling of funds awarded by the Fulton County Ryan White CARE Administration. Plate believes the increase reflects the administration's' faith in PI's ability to carry out its mission. The additional funds enabled the agency to employ more staff and establish additional collaborations.

PI made significant inroads with two underserved populations this year Latinos and incarcerated women. "We hired two additional Latino counselors this year," Plate noted. "The fact that we have to make transportation arrangements due to the high numbers of Spanish speaking clients is a testament to the credibility of our staff." PI also provides counseling and psychosocial education to incarcerated women at the Metropolitan Atlanta Correctional Facility. "Having women regularly participate in counseling means that our staff there is trusted."

The agency's budget was further ~~me~~ met by donations to the 2005 AIDS Walk through which PI independently raised a best-ever total amount of over $25,000. As a participant organization since the agency's inception, PI relies on the Walk as its largest ~~single~~ fundraising event.

The rapid growth of staff and programs did not come without growing pains. Several ~~staff~~ workers/employees were having difficulties adjusting to the responsibilities and schedule demands of their positions. PI's ~~responsible and ethical~~ leadership focused heavily on acknowledging the specific strengths and interests of staff members. "Instead of chopping heads, we developed new and different roles and work schedules to maximize the skills these individuals brought to the table."

PI enhanced ~~their~~ their technological capabilities with major upgrades to client database system known as Provide and the agency website. Provide is now better equipped to track clients and monitor their progress through diagnoses, treatment plans and clinical notes. It also helps staff flag clients lost to care and services, referrals and follow-up. PI's website www.positiveimpact-atl.org received a much-needed facelift thanks to web designer Joel Davidson who did the job pro bono. Plate expects the improved site to also expand fundraising and marketing ~~capacities~~ capacities.

Throughout the year, PI offered several informative and provocative trainings that were well appreciated by fellow providers in the Atlanta area. Among them were PI's 2-day hallmark cultural diversity seminar; two Lunch and Learn programs on Latino gay men; "The Use of Self of the Therapist"; "Trauma: Alternative Approaches to Treatment"; "Psychopharmacology and HIV"; and "The Ice Age: Meth Use Among MSM". ~~Men~~ Gay and Bisexual Men

PI resumed the publication of its quarterly which was renamed "Positive Connections". The revamped newsletter highlights agency events and spotlights key staff, volunteers and supporters who make significant contributions to PI's mission.

At 139 Ralph McGill Blvd, PI maintains a "legal partnership agreement" with AIDS Survival Project and AIDS Treatment Initiatives as co-tenants who sublease office space to other ASO's. Last September, PI welcomed the addition of its new partner, Atlanta AIDS Interfaith Network. They are located on the recently renovated first floor.

The year's biggest challenge was one fairly common among many service agencies, the non-profit short-pocket blues. Plate realizes that PI will need a comprehensive development plan in order to sustain its fiscal health. The agency's main concern is how to provide increasing numbers of people with the mental health services that they vitally need. Plate's worries are largely based on the imminent ending of a $600,000 five- year research grant from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and the continued reduction of Congressional alterations to the Ryan White CARE Act. ~~PI currently receives $~~442,000 in annual ~~Ryan White funding~~.

As 2006 approaches, Plate has set several goals for the 12-year old organization. He hopes to add a development department which would enable PI to diversify its funding stream and augment its list of benefactors. He is also searching to identify a donor to purchase 139 Ralph McGill in order to eliminate the expense of rent payments. A third goal is the inclusion of sliding scale fee programs through which PI could receive monies by providing services for clients whose income exceeds the eligibility criteria. "Maintaining Positive Impact is going to be a challenge without cleverly identifying new resources," Plate concluded. "We need new eyes, ears, thoughts, and strategies to make that happen."